



ACK/Dan

Ron Lane
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Spring Valley, NY 10977
July 8, 2008

Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Office of Petitions:

This is with regards to patent application 10/605,663.
I received a letter in response from your office dated June 23, 2008.

I am working pro se. I don't understand much of what is written in the response. After many calls to Michelle Eason's phone number that is printed in the letter, I was finally able to reach Michelle Eason the beginning of last week. I asked her about her response, and she said that she would review the letter and call me back. She never called me back, and I have subsequently not been able to reach her by phone.

I don't want to miss the deadline of 2 months in which I have to respond. So since I am unable to reach her, and she is not calling me back, I will try my best to respond to her letter.

In my petition to have my case revived, I made it clear why my case was unintentionally abandoned. I had been working with my examiner, and she gave me things to respond to – but unbeknownst to me, she had set a 6 month deadline for the process to be completed. Even though I responded to her request in a timely manner, and worked with someone I found in the patent office – I got the notice that my case was abandoned. Therefore I thought that I clearly fit under the category of "unintentionally abandoning the patent application". Certainly it was not my intention to abandon my application. I thought I was close to having my application approved, and I was responding to a detail that my examiner asked me to complete, and I responded in a timely fashion – and then I found out that my application had been abandoned. Believe, it was not my intention to abandon my application. When it was found to be abandoned, that was not my intention. I thought I made that clear in my letter to you to ask that it be revived.

As I read Michelle Eason's response I believe she focused on another issue: why didn't I petition to have the application revived SOONER. Why did I wait almost 2 years? Here is my answer: I did not know one could revive an application. I am working pro se, and I am not that knowledgeable in these processes – and I did not know I could revive the application.

Recently, someone told me that I could revive the application. And therefore, as soon as I found out, I applied for the application to be revived.

I believe I fall clearly in the category of un-intentionally abandoning my application. I never wanted to abandon it, and as soon as I found out I could apply to have it revived, I applied to have it revived.
PLEASE REVIVE IT. This is very important to me.

I hope you will give a compassioned and understanding response to his request.
Sincerely,

Ron Lane

Ron Lane



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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JUN 23 2008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Ronald S. LANE
Application No. 10/605,663
Filed: October 16, 2003
Attorney Docket No.

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the renewed petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed March 14, 2008, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action, mailed September 22, 2005, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. A two (2) month extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) was obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on February 23, 2006.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required by 37 CFR 1.137(d). Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 was unintentional, the Director may require additional information. See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(C) and (D). The instant petition lacks item(s) 1 and 3.

Petitioner failed to provide an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance.

There are three periods to be considered during the evaluation of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b):

- (1) the delay in reply that originally resulted in the abandonment;
- (2) the delay in filing an initial petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) to revive the application; and
- (3) the delay in filing a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) to revive the application.

Currently, the delay has not been shown to the satisfaction of the Director to be unintentional for periods (1) and (2).

As to Period (1):

The patent statute at 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) authorizes the Director to revive an "unintentionally abandoned application." The legislative history of Public Law 97-247 reveals that the purpose of 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) is to permit the Office to have more discretion than in 35 U.S.C. §§ 133 or 151 to revive abandoned applications in appropriate circumstances, but places a limit on this discretion, stating that "[u]nder this section a petition accompanied by either a fee of \$500 or a fee of \$50 would not be granted where the abandonment or the failure to pay the fee for issuing the patent was intentional as opposed to being unintentional or unavoidable." [emphasis added]. See H.R. Rep. No. 542, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. 6-7 (1982), reprinted in 1982 U.S.C.C.A.N. 770-71. The revival of an intentionally abandoned application is antithetical to the meaning and intent of the statute and regulation.

35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) authorizes the Director to accept a petition "for the revival of an unintentionally abandoned application for a patent." As amended December 1, 1997, 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) provides that a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by a statement that the delay was unintentional, but provides that "[t]he Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional." Where, as here, there is a question whether the initial delay was unintentional, the petitioner must meet the burden of establishing that the delay was unintentional within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) and 37 CFR 1.137(b). See In re Application of G, 11 USPQ2d 1378, 1380 (Comm'r Pats. 1989); 37 CFR 1.137(b). Here, in view of the inordinate delay (more than two (2) years) in resuming prosecution, there is a question whether the entire delay was unintentional. Petitioner should note that the issue is not whether some of the delay was unintentional by any party; rather, the issue is whether the entire delay has been shown to the satisfaction of the Director to be unintentional.

The question under 37 CFR 1.137(b) for period (1) is whether the delay on the part of the party having the right or authority to reply to avoid abandonment (or not reply) was unintentional. Accordingly, any renewed petition must clearly identify the party having the right to reply to avoid abandonment on February 23, 2006. That party, in turn must explain what effort(s) was made to further reply to the outstanding Office action and further, why no reply was filed. If no effort was made to further reply, then that party must explain why the delay in this application does not result from a deliberate course of action (or inaction). As Ronald S. Lane (Lane) was the party having the right to reply at the date of abandonment, Lane should explain why this application became abandoned while it was under his control and what efforts Lane made to further reply and with whom this matter was discussed. When did Lane become aware of the abandonment of this application? Additionally, Lane must explain the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the abandonment of this application (more than two (2) years) after the mailing of the Notice of Abandonment.

Copies of any correspondence relating to the filing, or to not filing a further reply to the outstanding Office action are required from responsible person(s), Lane and whoever else was involved with this application at the time of abandonment. Statements are required from the responsible person(s) having firsthand knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the lack of a reply to the outstanding Office

action. As the courts have made clear, it is pointless for the USPTO to revive a long abandoned application without an adequate showing that the delay did not result from a deliberate course of action. See Lawman Armor v. Simon, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10843, 74 USPQ2d 1633 (DC EMich 2005); Field Hybrids, LLC v. Toyota Motor Corp., 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1159 (D. Minn Jan. 27, 2005); Lumenyte Int'l Corp. v. Cable Lite Corp., Nos. 96-1011, 96-1077, 1996 U.S. App. LEXIS 16400, 1996 WL 383927 (Fed. Cir. July 9, 1996) (unpublished) (patents held unenforceable due to a finding of inequitable conduct in submitting an inappropriate statement that the abandonment was unintentional).

As to Period (2):

Likewise, where the applicant deliberately chooses not to seek or persist in seeking the revival of an abandoned application, or where the applicant deliberately chooses to delay seeking the revival of an abandoned application, the resulting delay in seeking revival of the abandoned application cannot be considered as "unintentional" within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.137(b). See MPEP 711.03(c).

The language of both 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) and 37 CFR 1.137(b) are clear and unambiguous, and, furthermore, without qualification. That is, the delay in filing the reply during prosecution, as well as in filing the petition seeking revival, must have been, without qualification, "unintentional" for the reply to now be accepted on petition. The Office requires that the entire delay be at least unintentional as a prerequisite to revival of an abandoned application to prevent

abuse and injury to the public. See H.R. Rep. No. 542, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. 7 (1982), reprinted in 1982 U.S.C.C.A.N. 771 ("[i]n order to prevent abuse and injury to the public the Commissioner could require applicants to act promptly after becoming aware of the abandonment"). The December 1997 change to 37 CFR 1.137 did not create any new right to overcome an intentional delay in seeking revival, or in renewing an attempt at seeking revival, of an abandoned application. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53160 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 87 (October 21, 1997), which clearly stated that any protracted delay (two (2) years) could trigger, as here, a request for additional information. As the courts have since made clear, a protracted delay in seeking revival, as here, requires a petitioner's detailed explanation seeking to excuse the delay as opposed to USPTO acceptance of a general allegation of unintentional delay. See Lawman Armor v. Simon, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10843, 74 USPQ2d 1633, at 1637-8 (DC EMich 2005); Field Hybrids, LLC v. Toyota Motor Corp., 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1159 (D. Minn Jan. 27, 2005) at *21-*23. Statements are required from any and all persons and the responsible person(s) having firsthand knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the protracted delay, after the abandonment date, in seeking revival.

As noted in MPEP 711.03(c)(II), subsection D, in instances in which such petition was not filed within 1 year of the date of abandonment of the application, applicants should include:

- (A) the date that the applicant first became aware of the abandonment of the application; and
- (B) a showing as to how the delay in discovering the abandoned status of the application occurred despite the exercise of due care or diligence on the part of the applicant.

In either instance, applicant's failure to carry the burden of proof to establish that the "entire" delay was "unavoidable" or "unintentional" may lead to the denial of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), regardless

of the circumstances that originally resulted in the abandonment of the application. *See also New York University v. Autodesk*, 2007 U.S. DIST LEXIS, U.S.District LEXIS 50832, *10 -*12 (S.D.N.Y. 2007)(protracted delay in seeking revival undercuts assertion of unintentional delay).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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 P. O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4231.


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